

REMARKS

Claims 3, 6, 9-13, 20, 21 and 25 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 3 and 6 are amended into independent form and claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 7, 8, 14-18, 22 and 23 are canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. No new matter is added.

Entry of the amendments is proper under 37 CFR §1.116 because the amendments: (a) place the application in condition for allowance by canceling the rejected claims and amending the allowable claims into independent form. The amendments are necessary and were not earlier presented because they are made in response to arguments raised in the final rejection. Entry of the amendments is thus respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 14, 15 and 22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over Bobo (U.S. Patent No. 6,350,066); claims 7 and 8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Bobo in view of Thames et al. (U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2003/0145281); and claims 16-18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Eguchi et al. (U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2003/0117665) in view of Tanimoto (U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2003/0103242); and claim 23 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Kida et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,293,253) in view of Oba et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,072,599). The rejections are moot in view of the cancellation of claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 7, 8, 14-18, 22 and 23. Applicant thus respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejections.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



James A. Oliff
Registration No. 27,075

Patrick T. Muffo
Registration No. 60,342

JAO:PTM/hs

Date: January 22, 2009

OLIFF & BERRIDGE, PLC
P.O. Box 320850
Alexandria, Virginia 22320-4850
Telephone: (703) 836-6400

<p>DEPOSIT ACCOUNT USE AUTHORIZATION Please grant any extension necessary for entry; Charge any fee due to our Deposit Account No. 15-0461</p>
